

REMARKS

In the Non-Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that he has entered and considered the Preliminary Amendment and Substitute Specification that were filed previously, required affirmation of an election made in response to a telephone restriction requirement under 35 USC 121, rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11 and 12 as anticipated by the Lagoy reference, rejected claim 3 as obvious over Lagoy in view of Harrison, rejected claim 6 as obvious over Lagoy in view of Alnuweiri, presumably rejected claim 7 for the same reason, rejected claim 8 as obvious over Lagoy in view of Ammar, rejected claims 9 and 10 as obvious over Lagoy in view of Appelbaum and cited additional art of record but not relied.

Restriction Requirement

Applicants hereby affirm the election of claims 1 through 12 for purposes of immediate prosecution.

35 USC 102(b)

The Lagoy reference has been reviewed by the inventor, who concludes that the reference does not show a non-transparent databus driver and controller.

In particular, Lagoy shows in Fig. 5 the data latch 72 which is connected to the signal line 66j for the signal DEN0. The data latch is connected to the system bus 10 and to the memory databus 74. To read and write data from and to the systembus 10, the data latch needs an enable signal. This enable signal is the signal DEN0. In column 7, line 60 the signal DEN0 is described as to enable the above data latch 72 for placing the data from the memory data bus 74 onto the system bus 10. Thus, no clock-signal is provided to the data latch 72.

Furthermore, according to the Examiner's point of view the broadest reasonable interpretation of the term "non-transparent" based on this assertion is a buffer that is double-clocked, in other words a buffer that clocks data in and subsequently clocks data out.

Firstly, the latch 72 is not clocked. Thus, the buffer 72 of Lagoy is not covered by the interpretation of "non-transparent" of the Examiner.

Secondly, the Examiner's interpretation is not correct, as "transparent" means in connection with a buffer that the same signals as are applied to the input side are always

available as well as at the output side. A “non-transparent” buffer is a buffer being clocked in such a way that during a clock pulse different signals are applied to the input side and to the output side of the buffer. Such a “non-transparent” buffer cannot be used in the prior art according to Lagoy, as no clock signal is directed to the latch 72.

In this respect Applicant points out that according to the invention as shown in Fig. 4, different data words are simultaneously transmitted from the transmitter assembly S to the databus driver and from the databus driver of the transmitter assembly S to the data bus driver of the receiver assembly. This is obviously only possible, when the data bus driver is fashioned as a non-transparent electronic component.

Thus, the present invention is not anticipated by the Lagoy reference.

35 USC 130(a)

The Lagoy reference teaches an apparatus that lacks a clock signal connected to the latch, so that it is not possible to simultaneously transmit different data words from the transmitter assembly to the databus driver and from the databus driver to the transmitter assembly. In view of the differences in operation, it would not be obvious to modify the Lagoy reference to provide the non-transparent driver as claimed.

The Harrison reference discloses a multi-drop bus architecture with up to 16 processors. Higher bus clock frequencies are taught. The characteristics of the present databus driver is not suggested, however. As such, the claimed invention is not obvious over even the combination.

The Alnuweiri reference discloses a bus apparatus and synchronous priority arbitration between modules. Even when considered together with Lagoy, the claimed databus drivers are not shown or suggested.

The Ammar reference is cited only for the showing of low voltage TTL drivers. This reference in combination with Lagoy does not suggest the claimed combination.

Appelbaum is likewise merely cited for its showing of known design characteristics, this for bus length. Appelbaum with Lagoy does not suggest the inventive databus drivers.

Thus, each of the 103 rejections has been shown to be unsupported by the art. As such, the claimed invention is a non-obvious improvement over the teachings of the prior art

references, alone or in combination. Favorable reconsideration of the claims is hereby requested.

Additional Art

The art cited but not relied upon is noted.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the present application including favorable consideration and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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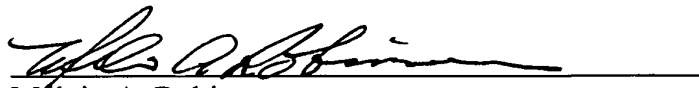
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on September 7, 2008


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